



THE VOTER

An Evening To Remember - An Evening To Anticipate

“One Nation? Under God? ...
Really?”



The Harrison Park Recreation Center provided a pleasant, comfortable setting for the General Membership Meeting on the 23rd of March. The 40 or so LWVMC members and guests who attended the program featuring 2010 Democracy In Action honoree, David McCoy, were treated to an evening of fine dining and discourse. All were welcomed to the historical Harrison West neighborhood in the Short North where the Center is located. When the League was organized in Columbus in 1919, the neighborhood was crowded with poverty stricken immigrant families living in unsanitary tenements with little access to education and human services. Today it is an attractive, diverse residential area, conveniently located to downtown, the Arena District and The Ohio State University.



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Join other members and friends for an evening honoring democracy and the League.

2011 Democracy In Action

Wednesday, May 11, 2011

5:30 pm - 7:30 pm

Statehouse Atrium

This year the League of Women Voters of Metropolitan Columbus will recognize Nancy Rogers as the 2011 Democracy In Action Award Recipient. Joining in the honor will be the co-chairs E. Gordon Gee, Sharon L. Davies, Alan C. Michaels, and Carl D. Smallwood. Former Attorney General Richard Cordray serve as MC.

RSVP by May 5, 2011 to Amy, vote@lwv.org, or 837-1089. The cost of the evening for League members is \$25 and for friends and individuals is \$50. Read more about DIA on page 3.

The Educational Events Committee is to be commended for offering the informative and entertaining meetings in March. Members of this committee are Dave Patton (chair), Bob Brown, Anne Light Hoke, Helena Schlam, and Jane Young.

If you are interested in helping with the Education Events Committee, please contact any member of the committee.

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David's presentation, "One Nation, Under God, Really?" challenged the audience with an historical look at the role of religion and politics. His observations of current politics became the basis for an examination of history and an exploration of civility that gave rise to a round of questions and lively commentary from the audience at the close of the program. He noted how exceptionalism, a self-understanding which began with the arrival of early English settlers in search of religious freedom, along with capitalism has shaped America's economic policies and ideas about race, citizenship and immigration ever since.



Puritan leaders used scripture to persuade the settlers that their accomplishments in the unknown world, would be as "a city built on a hill that could not be hid." Their efforts would result in "a nation divinely blessed so it could be a blessing to all nations." David used words of Eisenhower, Kennedy and Reagan that made reference centuries later to this divinely blessed nation. He quoted Eisenhower in 1954 speaking in approval of adding 'under God' to the Pledge of Allegiance. These words he said would "reaffirm the transcendence of faith in America's heritage and future." At a time when communism threatened the nation, they would be "spiritual weapons...our country's most powerful resource in peace and war." In 1961 President-elect Kennedy spoke of building a new government "on a perilous frontier...We must always consider that we shall be as a city set upon a hill...the eyes of all people are upon us." In his good-by speech in 1981, Reagan shared his vision of what he called a shining city on a hill, "God blessed, teeming with people of all kinds living in harmony and peace...with free ports...and doors open to anyone with the will and the heart to get here."

Exceptionalism has fostered qualities such as creativity, resourcefulness and hard work in Americans. At the same time its negative aspects have contributed to the incivility we are witnessing in politics, in ordinary citizens 'getting through the day.' To conclude, David shared his belief that, "It is a vast world and the Almighty is the God of all creation—not just the USA. He proposed that the means to

realizing America as "one nation under God" without the comma, is to recapture the sense of civil discourse which he also believes, stems from the Almighty. To read his presentation from start to finish go to the LWVMC website, www.lwvcol.org or contact Amy, 837-1089 for a copy.

A big thank you to David for his thoughtfully prepared discussion and to the other volunteers who contributed to the success of the evening: JoAnne Grossman, Barbi Crabill, Lucy and David Buzzee, Bob Brown, Scott Britton, Jan Patton and Amy Pulles. Thanks to all.

Mim Brierley, Vice-President Membership

Democracy In Action

Each year when I look out the window just beside my work desk and see the specks of white emerging from my pear tree and the lilacs beginning their annual budding into pure exquisiteness, I'm reminded of one thing, Democracy In Action. All the colorful beauty around me is my cue to get busy finalizing the details.

Democracy In Action 2011 promises to be fantastic and exciting. There are many great things to look forward to that evening that I just don't know where to begin. I'll start with the honoree. Nancy Rogers, Former Dean of the Moritz College of Law at The Ohio State University is this year's honoree. Her list of accomplishments and her dedication to promoting democracy in central Ohio is too extensive for this article, however, here are a few of them:

1. Currently, Nancy is Chair of Alternative Dispute Resolution at The Ohio State University Moritz College of Law.
2. She has served as President of the Association of American Law Schools.
3. Nancy was also appointed by President Clinton to the Board of Directors of the Legal Services Corporation and served as one of Ohio's five commissioners on the National Conference of Commissioners of Uniform State Laws.

4. She also chaired the Judicial Advisory Committee, which reviews candidates for the U.S. District Court for the Northern District of Ohio.
5. Nancy has also written award-winning books on the subject of mediation and alternative dispute resolution (ADR).

We also have many exciting guests joining us at this year's Democracy In Action. Former Attorney General Richard Cordray has agreed to serve as our MC for the evening. Our honorary co-chairs include OSU President E. Gordon Gee, Dean Alan Michaels and Professor Sharon Davies (OSU Moritz College of Law), and Mr. Carl Smallwood (Partner, Vorys Sater Seymour Pease). They will all share with us their unique perspectives on Nancy Rogers' achievements.

It goes without saying, Democracy In Action is a wonderful time to catch up with your League friends and share with them a great evening celebrating the accomplishments of the League and our honoree.

The award ceremony will take place on Thursday, May 12 at the Statehouse Atrium at 5:30 PM. Ticket pricing is as follows: \$25 for members, \$50 for general public, \$100, \$250 & \$500 levels for patrons. Please see our website at www.lwvcols.org for more details or contact me at 614-837-1089. RSVP's must be received by May 5.

I hope to see you there!

Amy Pulles

Democracy In Action

Thursday, May 12, 2011 starting at 5:30 pm
Ohio Statehouse Atrium
Nancy Rogers will be honored as the
2011 Recipient of the Democracy In Action Award.

Do Not Forget to respond
to Amy by May 5 for
"The Event" of the year.

League and Immigration



On Wednesday, April 6, more than 50 people turned out for a forum on U.S. Immigration: Past and Present at the Columbus Metropolitan library. Presentations were given from Ohio State professor Tony Mughan on the history of immigration, Lisa Curley and Cheryl Gallegos of U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services on the process for becoming a citizen, and Joe L. Mas on the subject of undocumented immigrants. The League was joined in presenting the forum by the Columbus Metropolitan Library and the Columbus Council on Public Deliberation.

The members of the MC League assembled on numerous occasions in preparation of the consensus of a national study on immigration. These results, along with the outcomes from Leagues all over the Nation, were sent to the US League who drew up a national position. It reads as follows:

National Position on Immigration

Statement of Position on Immigration, as Announced by National Board, April 2008:

The League of Women Voters believes that immigration policies should promote reunification of immediate families; meet the economic, business and employment needs of the United States; and be responsive to those facing political persecution or humanitarian crises. Provision should also be made for qualified persons to enter the United States on student visas. All persons should receive fair treatment under the law.

The League supports federal immigration law that provides an efficient, expeditious system (with minimal or no backlogs) for legal entry of immigrants into the United States.

To complement these goals the League supports federal policies to improve economies, education, job opportunities and living conditions in nations with large emigrating populations.

In transition to a reformed system, the League supports provisions for unauthorized immigrants already in the country to earn legal status

The League supports federal payments to impacted communities to address the financial costs borne by states and local governments with large immigrant populations.

Criteria for Legal Admission to the United States

The League supports the following criteria for legal admission of persons into the United States:

- Family reunification of spouses or minor children with authorized immigrants or citizens;
- Flight from persecution or response to humanitarian crises in home countries;
- Economic, business and
- employment needs in the United States;
- Education and training needs of the United States;

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- Educational program opportunities; and
- Lack of a history of serious criminal activity.

Administration and Enforcement

The League supports due process for all persons, including the right to a fair hearing, right to counsel, right of appeal and right to humane treatment.

The League supports:

- Improved technology to facilitate employer verification of employee status;
- Verification documents, such as status cards and work permits, with secure identifiers;
- Significant fines and penalties for employers who hire unauthorized workers;
- Improved technology for sharing information among federal agencies;

- More effective tracking of individuals who enter the United States; and
- Increased personnel at borders.

The League also supports programs following foreign workers to enter and leave the United States to meet seasonal or sporadic labor needs.

Unauthorized Immigrants Already in the United States

In achieving overall policy goals, the League supports a system for unauthorized immigrants already in the country to earn legal status, including citizenship, by paying taxes, learning English, studying civics and meeting other relevant criteria. While policy reforms, including a path to legal status, remain unachieved, the League does not support deporting unauthorized immigrants who have no history of criminal history.

For more information about League positions check the LWVMC website. There you find the local positions, state positions listed in *Agenda for Action*, and US positions listed in *Impact and Issues*. Copies can be obtained from the Ohio

May Opportunity for League Involvement with Units

A great place to meet other members, both new and seasoned, is at a Unit meeting. The Unit meetings are also an opportunity to invite a friend to a League event. If you can not fit the morning or evening unit into your schedule, why not think about helping to plan another Unit? Read Nancy Brown's recollections of the east side Unit on page 8. Contact a member of the Program committee.

Dinner Unit and the State Budget Wings' Restaurant Wednesday, May 25 dinner 5:30 pm program 6:30pm

The Ohio budget is slim but a hefty issue. The discussion of the evening will be the state budget and seeing where and how it has moved. One presenter will be Deniray Mueller, a member of LWVMC. She has been following the budget very closely. Leaguers and their friends can meet at Wing's on May 25 at 5:30 pm for dinner or around 6:30 pm for the program.

Morning Unit and Voter Participation Wesley Glenn

Thursday, May 19 9:30 am - 11:00 am

Issues affecting voter participation is a serious matter for the League. On May 19, 2011, Peg Rosenfield will be bringing the morning unit up-to-date on the Voter ID Bill now in the Ohio legislature and giving us the background to understand the politics surrounding it. Members will convene from 9:30 am - 11:00 am in the conference room at Wesley Glen. Coffee, tea and cookies will be served. Invite an interested friend to attend with you.

Annual Meeting

Another League year is winding down. The LWVMC Board invites all members to the 2011 Annual Meeting. The Board will bring members up-to-date on anticipated new actions with next year's budget, a new slate of officers, a by-laws amendment, and important updates from the Strategic Planning Committee. This is the opportunity for all MC members to forge ideas and plans for our 2011-2012 year and beyond.

When: Monday, June 6

Time: 6:30 PM

**Where: Columbus Board of Realtors
2700 Airport Drive, Columbus, OH 43219**

As in past years, we will have a pot-luck meal so please bring your favorite dish to share with your League friends.

Bylaws Amendment To Be Considered at the Annual Meeting

An amendment to the LWVUS bylaws was approved at the 2010 LWVUS Convention and we, therefore, must make this same change to the LWV Metro Columbus Bylaws. As you may recall, the first three articles of the League bylaws set forth the League name, purpose and policy and define membership in the LWVUS. Per LWVUS policy, the first three articles of all local and state League bylaws must be consistent with those of the LWVUS in order to define and maintain the unity of the organization and the powers and privileges of members.

LWVUS changed the name of the third membership category from "honorary life members" to "life members." Specifically, the amendment strikes the word "honorary" from Article III, Section 2, which should now read:

b. Voting Life Members

Voting members of LWVMC who make a lump-sum life membership payment to LWVUS shall be voting ~~honorary~~ life members of LWVMC. Those who have been members of the League for 50 years or more shall be voting honorary life members excused from the payment of dues.

2011 Slate of Nominees

The members of the Nominating Committee, Mary Kaul (chair), Jean Byrd, Pat Larson, David McCoy and Jane Young, thank all members that have helped in compiling this year's slate of nominees. The Committee also thanks those willing to serve the League MC as officers and trustees.

LWVMC Nominating Committee, Slate of Nominees 2011 To be considered at the Annual Meeting

The Officers:

1. President--Kitty Burcsu (term ending 2012)
2. Vice president--Advocacy--Scott Britton (term ending 2012)
3. Vice president--Membership--Mim Brierley
4. Vice president-Voter Service: Eliminated. Amy will assume duties as point person for voter service.
5. Secretary--Pat Larson (2011-2013)
6. Treasurer--Mary Kaul (term ending 2012)

The Trustees returning:

1. Danielle Smith (to be elected for term 2011-2013)
2. Marilyn Huheey (term ending 2012)
3. Anne Hoke (term ending 2012)
4. Sonja Nelson Jones (term ending 2012)
5. JoAnn Grossman (term ending 2012)
6. Janyce Katz (term ending 2012)--Consortium

Board members to be elected with "re-missioning" responsibilities and one-year terms (2011-2012):

7. Lucy Buzzee
8. Gloria Davis
9. Anne Nelson

Mim Brierley will also be a part of the "re-missioning" team.

Board to appoint Beth Taggart, with "re-missioning" responsibilities when the new Board convenes in June at Retreat.

Off-Board member in charge of Program: Dave Patton

Off-Board member in charge of VOTER: Jean Byrd

Nominating Committee for next year: Judy Brachman, Chair; Ann Henkener and Jan Patton.

Amy Pulles has agreed to stay on until July, 2012, with a reduction in hours, and to retain the office in her home.

LWVMC Members

This month the Voter highlights two MC League members who found the energy and time to fashion the League into their lives.

Nancy Brown

The League of Women Voters came into my life at a critical moment. I was a new mother in Berkeley, California and quite convinced that my four years studying history at the University of Chicago was for naught and that I was destined to spend my days interacting with a delightful, but not very intellectually stimulating, four month old baby. And then somebody told me about the League and I found myself immersed in a study of whether or not the United States should recognize "Red China" with a group of intelligent stimulating women. (Okay, that dates me - but the League came to the correct decision before Richard Nixon did.) The League made all the difference in my self-esteem and sanity and may be the reason Tracy and her two siblings, who quickly followed, had a mother who was not climbing the walls (at least not all the time).

When we arrived in Columbus in 1970, the first organization I joined was, of course, the League. But in 1971 I started law school at Ohio State and although I remained a League member, my activities were pretty much circumscribed as I completed law school, began a legal career and rode herd on three children. I spent nearly 30 years working as in house counsel at Borden, Inc. and its various incarnations. Yet somehow, the League crept back in my life. There was the wonderful east side unit at Sue Gordon's home where we feasted on gourmet meals and on vigorous discussion of local state and national issues. It was a wonderful source of friendships some of which last to this day.

Ultimately I joined Metro's Board and served as secretary for several years. In 2003 after my career at Borden had ended as Borden Foods

Corporation, where I had been General Counsel, was sold, I agreed to serve as President of LWVMC. Immediately after I had accepted that position, I had the opportunity to become General Counsel of Borden Chemical. It was an impossible combination, but somehow thanks to a wonderful Board, I survived the next two years and I don't think Metro Columbus is much the worse for my tenure as President.

Somehow League was waiting when I finally retired for good. First there was a state review of our position on the judiciary. And the Lobby Corps was beckoning. In 2009 I joined the State Board and chaired the Advocacy Committee. After so many years where my focus was on local league activities, it has been a real education to begin to understand the role of the State league. I am hoping that as I continue on the State Board we will be able to strengthen the bridges between local leagues and the State League, enabling us to work together as the League grows and adapts to the 21st century.

YWCA Honors Loann Crane

League member and 2004 Democracy In Action honoree, Loann Crane, was awarded a Lifetime Achievement award at the April 6th Women of Achievement luncheon. Her bold vision for encouraging women to become philanthropists and for being an outstanding model of philanthropic giving has had a lasting impact on Central Ohio.

Loann was one of the first to recognize the brilliance of local artists such as Elija Pierce and Aminah Robinson. As a long-time Columbus Museum of Art trustee and docent, she urged the leadership to invest in these up and coming artists as part of a greater plan to make the museum welcoming for people of all walks of life.

She lent her expertise to the Columbus College of Art and Design to encourage creation of an inviting campus for the students. Loann was the first to donate a building that then attracted more donors and buildings resulting in the current campus.

After years of investing in and guiding a breadth of projects in Columbus, Loann turned her attention to empowering women more directly. Along with a group of women friends and philanthropists, Loann founded The

Women’s Fund of Central Ohio, the first organization in Columbus that exclusively funds programs for women and girls.

A member of The Ohio State University’s Development Council, Loann established one of the first programs to help eliminate racism and other roadblocks for Hispanic students, The Crane Fund for Hispanic Studies. Loann firmly believes in supporting the potential of all people and served as the honorary chair of Equality Ohio’s first “Allies for Equality” event focused on the rights for lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender citizens.

The League of Women Voters of Metropolitan Columbus congratulates Loann on receiving a Lifetime Achievement award and extends a sincere thank you for all of her efforts and accomplishments that have enhanced the quality of life in Central Ohio.

Kitty Burscu

LWV Ohio Statehouse Day



Over one hundred Leaguers from around the state gathered for the 2011 Statehouse Day. LWVMC members joined the group for a day of workshops and speakers that included Fred Andrie, retired host of WOSU’s “Open Line” radio show, Secretary of State John Husted, and State Budget Director Tim Keen.



Afternoon workshops included topics on redistricting, health care reform, education and criminal justice reform. Members were also able to visit with their legislators. The day concluded with a reception for Leaguers Peg Rosenfield and Joan Lawrence.



League Activities

Lobby Lunch	Tuesday, April 26	11:30 am	Columbus Metro Library
Land Use Study Committee	Tuesday, May 3	9:30 am	Whetstone Library
Lobby Lunch	Tuesday, May 10	11:30 am	Columbus Metro Library
Democracy In Action	Thursday, May 12	5:30 pm	Ohio Statehouse
LWVOhio Convention	May 13-15		Maumee State Park
Morning Unit	Thursday, May 19	9:30 am	Wesley Glenn
Evening Unit	Wednesday, May 25	5:30 pm	Wings' Restaurant

Call to League of Women Voters of Ohio Convention

Please join us for the 2011 LWVO 59th State Convention at Maumee State Park
May 13 - May 15

This will give you a chance to build sustaining relationships with other members and cultivate your network.

Grow your knowledge through dynamic workshops and idea exchange sessions.

Strengthen the League of Women Voters by adding your voice to the conversation [about the future of the League and plans for 2011-2013.](#)

Contact Amy, 837-1089 or vote@lwvcols.org if you are interested in attending.

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